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Hongkong, 1st February, 1871.

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## The Daily Press

HONGKONG, MARCH 10TH, 1871.

The Sessions of the Hongkong Legislative Council are of a decidedly sprawling nature. They begin at all conceivable periods of the year, and seem to end nowhere. The great standing dish of the Estimates is necessarily brought forward; but, the supplies being once voted, there seems an astonishing amount of deliberation about all other matters. Ordinances are read at one sitting, and perhaps nothing more heard of them for three or four months, and then they are hurried through in the most rapid manner possible, so that nobody exactly knows what it is and what is not being done. We have a dim notion that the Legislative Council is sitting at the present time. At least a number of most important matters were brought before it in November last, and over three months of cool weather have been allowed to elapse without anything being done. Of course the Government having once got the Estimates passed do not want to be overmuch troubled with discussion. "The least said, the soonest mended," appears to be the principle upon which for the most part they very wisely proceed. But perhaps the public may look upon the matter in a somewhat different light, and would like to see a little more activity on the part of the legislature whose care their interests are committed.

The various suggestions made by Chief-Justice Smales with regard to the improvements necessary in the local government of the Colony specially call for discussion. The public can hardly be satisfied with the very peculiar manner, in which the memorandum has been brought forward. It is stated that it was placed on record at the last meeting of the Council, that is to say November last. Certainly the operation of putting the memorandum on record was peculiarly quiet, as it entirely escaped the notice of the Reporters for the papers that anything of the kind had occurred—and now that it is officially announced that this memorandum has been recorded, may it not be asked whether any opportunity will be afforded for having the matter which is contained in it properly discussed, and some practical action taken with regard to it. The form which such practical action should assume is sufficiently obvious. If the Legislative Council's opinion that there is any truth in the statements made by the Chief-Judge, a substantive motion should be passed appointing Commissions to enquire into the gambling system and into the working of the Police Force. With regard to the former, if the Chief-Judge is correct in his opinion that the Government has exceeded the authority conferred upon him by the Legislature in instituting the Licensing, the matter is one of sufficiently serious import. If the Council and the public are to be made sport of, and measures of gigantic importance to be carried out without their sanction, the sooner we understand that such is the fact, the better for all concerned. It is impossible to believe that even in Hongkong, a matter of such moment will be allowed to remain in doubt. We understand upon thoroughly reliable authority that we were quite correct in stating that the whole of the gambling arrangement has been foisted on the Colony through a stretch of the powers conferred in Section XVIII. of the "Order and Cleanliness Ordinance," (No. 9, of 1867); and this very section states that the penal laws for the suppression of gambling are still in force. Surely this is a matter demanding the most searching investigation.

As to the question of the Police Force, the obstinacy of the Executive in refraining from anything that may lead to a proper investigation of the subject is simply astounding. Are they really prepared to maintain that this is a question concerning which the public has not a right to the fullest information? It would be interesting to see how a declamation to that effect would be received at the Colonial Office; and it may be stated with perfect justice that the action of the local Government declares more emphatically than any words could do, their full determination to baffle all connected with this question. It is high time that they were forced either to make arrangements for an official investigation of the matter or to declare officially that they intend to keep the public in the dark.

Yesterday the question of costs in the cases with reference to the collision between the *Blackader* and the steamer *Vulcan* was argued before the Vice-Chancellor, and it was held that each party should pay its costs in each of the two actions. The damages are to be assessed by the Registrar of the Court.

A party of German gentlemen and ladies, the steamer *Papagei*, arrived yesterday morning shortly before 10 o'clock, to Macao, where they remained until 8 p.m., returning to Hongkong a little after 11 p.m. The *fou* was observed in congratulation of the cessation of hostilities between United Germany and France. The day was spent in sight-seeing, and the evening was given up to cards, drinking, to which on the voyage back during was added, musicians having been procured at Macao. The party numbered about two hundred, the only matter of regret being the great disproportion of ladies to gentlemen.

LATE TELEGRAMS.—The Straits Times of 27th February, brought by the *Ta-Ke*, contains the following telegram, which is substantially the same as the private telegram which we published on Wednesday:

"It is announced that the forces of Alsace and Metz, but Belfort is to be restored; indemnity, five millions francs. The Germans will enter Paris Monday."

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

March 8th.

BIRKBECK, C. MAT, Esq.

HOBBEY.

Esq.—a stone-cutter, out of employment, who was charged with having robbed an American merchant of £100,000, and was sentenced to gaol for six months with hard labour. The complainant stated that he had gone up to a certain street to wash his clothes, and had laid aside his jacket and pants on the ground, while he proceeded to wash himself. He observed a man in uniform, and approached the clothes, and then picked up the jacket, while one of his companions did the same with the pants, which contained five 10-cent pieces and some cash; then all three ran away. He ran after them and a constable coming in the opposite direction stopped them, and he picked up the jacket. Complainant's story was corroborated by I.P.C. No. 341. Defendant stated that he was taken in custody by a police-constable, but did not know why. He was on his way to Folkstone, when his master had left him, and he had run away, when he saw that he had been made a prisoner. He had no one upon whom he could call for a character.

**A LICENSED WATERMAN.**  
Chung-kiang, a boatman, was charged by Philip Kennedy, Esq., for having been a waterman, and was a sailor who swam ashore in his boat. Defendant was unwilling to take the man for less than one dollar, which he gave him, and told him where to go. Complainant then went away, as his leave was up, but Chung-kiang went after him, and pulled him off shore, and was lying on the Wharf, returing, he found him there, and saw defendant pull after him; he met another constable in a police-boat, he gave the man in charge. Complainant was perfectly sober. He had no doubt that the defendant was the man to whom he had given the dollar. Defendant said that complainant had not paid him, and would not pay, and then called the police, because he would not take him for nothing. Fourteen days with hard labour.

## INSURANCE.

Lang-a-fat, a cook, was fined \$1, for making an illegal deposit of some rubbish.

Daniel Hulley, a friend of the U.S.S. *Palo Alto*, was found by P.C. No. 51 in a chair, drunk. The chair-coordinates they did not want to trouble about him, they had not been paid. According to his statement, they may have helped themselves to his knife and \$3. He did not know the number of the chair.

## BEFORE J. BURNELL, Esq., CONCERNING.

Chung-kiang, a hospital cook, was charged by P.C. No. 51, for being absent without a pass. On his being charged, defendant had twisted the constable with his inability to read English, and he had no doubt that the defendant was the man to whom he had given the dollar. Defendant said that complainant had not paid him, and would not pay, and then called the police, because he would not take him for nothing. Fourteen days with hard labour.

## FELONIOUS WOUNDING.

Wong Alok was charged by Inspector Duggan with cutting and wounding three men with a knife, and was accused of having given a deadly blow. Two of these men being in the Oban, one of whom was dangerously wounded in the abdomen, and the third being confined to his own house with a stab wound in his thigh, the case was remanded until the 15th inst.

The illicit hawking of strips and vegetables, Army and Navy drunks, nuisances, brawling, &c., were numerous but uninteresting.

## THE MERCANTILE AND OFFICIAL POLICERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."—Sir, I beg to make upon Mr. G. E. Smales' exposition of the state of affairs in China, will you permit me to point out that there is a difference between the mercantile and the naval polices? As far as I am concerned, the defendant had twisted the constable with his inability to read English, and he had no doubt that the defendant was the man to whom he had given the dollar. Defendant said that complainant had not paid him, and would not pay, and then called the police, because he would not take him for nothing. Fourteen days with hard labour.

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## A CHINESE PRIMER.

(Overland Monthly.)

As a specimen of the Chinese literature and style of thinking, the "Three-Letter Classic" is invaluable. The reader of it can scarcely imagine the poor schoolmasters in those many months of ignorance and their prey, as told us by the author. How well will the young Chinese learn the "Three-Letter Classic"! But the Government has abolished the hand-shaking of Royalty, for the hand-shaking of dome may. What the Mrs. Grundy of England will say to this I know not. He yesterday gave £1,000 to the King, with one Adjutant to the Hotel de Paris and two others here. He orders the Adjutant to go to the hotel to shake hands with the King, and the King to return the compliment, and mid-morn. He had, so far, the right to rest noon after 10. These are Royal habits—it is not better, my Spanish habits (for here the natives breakfast at 11, and go to bed when the cock crows)—are creating namespaces. 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with her Majesty's Commissioners, for the purpose of ensuring a representation of the arts and manufactures of Spain at the annual International Exhibitions.

Very early in the day, posts were made on the night of Friday last, against the German positions near Le Bourget and Drancy. According to the accounts from Versailles these sorties were victoriously repulsed.

The German representatives, in a resolution, demanded the conduct of two officers of the Mobile Guard, a sergeant and corporal of the Mobile Guard, and a sub-lieutenant of the Engineers of the National Guard, who, on the 9th, had communications with the enemy and had been captured. The demand was ordered; orders then to be presented as such, and to direct them to Libourne and Châlons.

One of our Special Correspondents in Paris, writing on the 11th, says that a pigeon had just reached the city bringing despatches for the German Government. A private pilot flew over the columns of a newspaper, bearing 15,000 private despatches. All this news had been reduced to such microscopical size that it was covered in a small guild delicately attached to the bird's feathers. Our Correspondent says that the only effect produced by the additional information was a feeling of strong indignation. It was considered both useless and barbarous. People even argued that the bombardment was being carried on merely for the purpose of using up the superfluous shot and shell, probably to save the cost of transport.

Our Correspondent has addressed a note to the North German representatives abroad, in reply to the charge made on the part of the French Government by M. de Chaudron, against the German mode of carrying on war. Count Biarritz, in his speech in the Diet, said that the despatch was itself only one which had been intended for the French public, and that section of the foreign press which is opposed to Germany. Representatives of the European and American press, he adds, have observed and can testify that the German soldiers know how to carry on war in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

Count Biarritz is the French—but the Germans, who have "imported a character to the war, which must daily deepen and widen." In conclusion, the despatch cites neutral testimony in support of counter charges against the French.

It is stated in a telegram from Versailles that M. Gambetta was present at the battle near Lo Mans, and saved himself by an early flight. Some telegrams announce that up to the 10th inst., 13,000 and 18,000 prisoners had been captured by the troops of Prince Frederick Charles in the battle near L. Mans.

A protest has been addressed to the Foreign Powers by the French Government against the bombardment of Paris. The protest states that the bombardment of Paris, hospitals, churches, schools, and prisons, thus making numerous victims of innocent women and children. A besieger it is added, is bound to announce to all the world his intentions before, in order to give time for the inhabitants to remove their effects. The protest of the National Defence protests against the military action now being taken by the Germans, as a useless act of barbarism, and slurs the sentiments of the inhabitants, who, so far from being depressed by this violence, have demonstrated their strength. The Doctor of the Hospitals in Paris have signed another protest against the bombardment as a violation of the Geneva Convention.

**THE NEW YORK GOING CASE.**  
(Full Mail Gazette.)  
The New York papers give an account of the capture of some of the swindlers who have been sending circulars offering to supply counterfeit sovereigns in large quantities. The swindlers, it appears, have sold their books, which have been seized by the police, been making large profits—sometimes as much as \$200 a day—by supplying forged notes at the rate of 100 dollars for every five dollars of cash remitted to them. They plan it appears, to obtain from all parts of the country, and from Europe, forged notes, and to tempt them with circulars, stating that the forgers for them, accompanied by a remittance, were to be addressed to the firm as if it were so many bank clerks, and that the remittance would be forwarded to them. In return nothing was sent but boxes of rabbit and the victims were obliged to remain quiet or avow their own criminality. Many of the leaders of persons who had thus been duped were among the members of the firm, and had been enabled by the same to fall into the hands of the New York Sun. Among them is one from an agent of an express company, offering to aid the swindlers in their operations; another is from a writer who stakes himself to be member of the Tennessee Legislature; another is from a man in the service of Georgia, who is evidently the author of the forged notes; another is from one of the keepers in a State prison, and another is from an attorney and counsellor-at-law in the State of Georgia, who describes himself as a member of Congress. The business was carried on in the most regular manner; there was a "correspondence department," a "mailing department," &c., and in one of the establishments at the time of seizure there were stacks containing about 100,000 letters from all parts of the Union. The operator of the business, a counterfeiter sovereigns, appears to have been only lately tried. These coins, we were stated in the circulars, would be made of aluminum, and would be found precisely similar to gold in every respect, except that the aluminum, being lighter, would be a little thinner than the genuine coin. Their manufacturer would, it was stated, be superintended by a person who worked in the British Mint for eighteen years, and they were forced at the time of 21 for twenty sovereigns, and the men who were engaged in it something less. How far the scheme succeeded in this country is not yet known; but if any dopes were found, there will be a great probability of their names and addresses being published.

A negro in Madras is reported to have killed upwards of 140 persons in a few villages in seven years. He was at last shot by Major Duff, but died before he could be buried. The village, and a great part of the land had become uncultivated through fear of her attacks.

**A BRAUTLESS SWINDLER.**—An advertisement recently appeared in the Manchester papers for the sale of complete sets of furniture, building trade, for which the advertiser professed work in New York at excellent wages. The advertiser promised to pay one-half of the passage-money (three guineas), the other half to be deposited by the intending emigrant with the agent, and the men were then to be sent after depositing the sum, and as directed proceeded to Liverpool on a particular day, when they discovered that they had been swindled.

A curious instance of the effect of nervous alarm is to be seen in one of the incidents of the War of 1812. In the case of a soldier who was found on the field after the battle of St. Privat. He is not wounded, but is in a state of extreme prostration. He sees nothing, feels nothing, and perceives no sound. The battle had taken place entirely in the dark. There is another in a hospital at Bantam who presents much the same appearance of insensibility; but he moves his fingers about as though he were knitting. His state is attributed to depression of the will caused by the splinter of a shell.

**COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.**  
—**THE MARKET FOR EXHIBITIONS.**  
A fair amount of business has been done, on Bengal drug at reduced prices. Patna, cash, at \$525 to \$527; and \$529 to \$530 on credit; Benares, \$512 to \$516 cash, from Chinese hands, against sales by foreigners at \$512 to \$520. Patna, cash, \$524 to \$525; and \$524 to \$525, week; Patna on cash, 3rd sales, at \$517; week; Old Patna, \$507 to \$509, on credit; Old Benares, \$550 to \$555 nominal; Malwa, \$630 cash, \$635 credit, little doing.

Shareholders in the Bank of Bengal have placed for the old bank shares, Nos. 301 to 204, per cent. premium for cash; and Nos. 301 to 204 for cash, and 27 per cent. for end of March; cloning very firm with buyers and few of any sellers at these rates. Hongkong First Postage due on 1st April next, &c. Apply to THOS. W. BARRETTON & CO., 1790 Hongkong, 17th January, 1871.

**TO BE LET.**  
With immediate possession.

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